

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Nakano et al

Serial No.: 10/604,553

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FORMING
ALIGNMENT LAYER

Filed: July 30, 2003

Art Unit: 2871

Examiner: Michael H. Caley

Confirmation No.: 1552

Customer No.: 27623

Attorney Docket No.: JP920020113US1

Date: April 15, 2005

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, we are enclosing form PTO-1449 listing information that may be material to the patentability of this application.

We are also enclosing a copy of each of the following citations that are listed in form PTO-1449:

Japanes Patent Nos. : 7-056172; 9-244027; and 11-160711.

04/18/2005 ZJU HAR1 00000043 10604553

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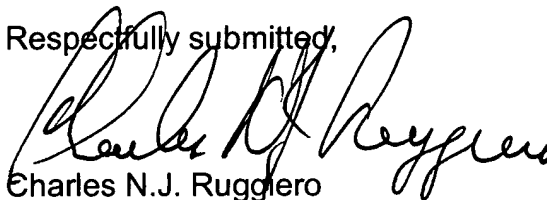
Cited in the attached PTO-1449 are U.S. Patent Nos. 5,486,403; 5,770,826; 6,061,114; 6,061,115; 6,124,914; and 6,313,896. Pursuant to the waiving of the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of these U.S. references are not enclosed.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the citations that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed citations and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the date of the first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311. The fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) accompanies this I.D.S.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles N.J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.

One Landmark Square, 10th Floor

Stamford, CT 06901-2682

(203) 327-4500

CUSTOMER NO.: 27623

Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449

Docket Number (Optional)

Application Number

JP920020113US1

10/604,553

Applicant

Nakano et al

Filing Date

July 30, 2003

Group Art Unit

2871

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,486,403	Jan. 1996	Ishitaka et al			
	5,770,826	June 1998	Chaudhari et al			
	6,061,114	May 2000	Callegari et al			
	6,061,115	May 2000	Samant et al			
	6,124,914	Sept. 2000	Chaudhari et al			
	6,313,896	Nov. 2001	Samant et al			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO
	7-056172	Mar. 1995	Japan				X
	9-244027	Sept. 1997	Japan				X
	11-160711	June 1999	Japan				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.